

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00116 131922 Z

73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /126 W
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R 131825 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1264

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 116

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NS

SUBJECT: STRIKE SITUATION

REF: PARAMARIBO 110

SUMMARY: PORT, RIVER AND FERRY WORKERS ON STRIKE FOR THREE DAYS. HOWEVER, THE REPORTED IMMINENT RELEASE OF THE ARRESTEES MAY REMOVE THE CAUSE OF THIS PROTEST STRIKE AND PAVE THE WAY TO A SOLUTION OF THE LARGER DISPUTE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS OF MIDNIGHT MARCH 12 SURINAM'S PORT, RIVER AND FERRY WORKERS' UNIONS HAVE GONE ON STRIKE FOR, PROVISIONALLY, THREE DAYS. THESE UNIONS ARE AMONG MOST MILITANT AND AGAIN, AS IN FEBRUARY, HAVE BEEN THE FIRST PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS TO JOIN THE GENERAL STRIKE CALLED TO PROTEST THE ARREST OF RUSSLAND AND OTHERS. NEVERTHELESS, STRIKE APPEARS ONLY PARTLY EFFECTIVE.

2. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND FROM HENRI LUNES, ACTING CHIEF OF SURINAM'S CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (CID) THAT DECISION HAS JUST BEEN TAKEN, BUT NOT YET ANNOUNCED, TO RELEASE ALL OF DETAINEES STILL HELD, INCLUDING RUSSLAND. THIS WOULD ELIMINATE REASON FOR GENERAL STRIKE AS WELL AS MAIN OBSTACLE TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNION AND GOVERNMENT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO ORIGINAL DISPUTE. SEEMS THAT EXAMINING MAGISTRATE THIS MORNING DECIDED
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00116 131922 Z

TO RELEASE SEVERAL MORE DETAINEES. PROCURATOR GENERAL DE MIRANDA
THEREUPON DECIDED TO RELEASE ALL PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO LUNES.
DE MIRANDA, WHOSE POSITION IS SUPPOSED TO BE NON- POLITICAL,
HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASING FIRE AS A RESULT OF THE
ARRESTS AND, IN VIEW OF THE MAGISTRATES' FAILURE THUS
FAR TO UNDICT ANY PRISONERS, APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED TO DROP
ANY FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER.
JOHNSTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARAMA00116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahnga.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PARAMARIBO 110
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971120
Subject: STRIKE SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, NS
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
THE HAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005